



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GEORGIA WOMAN AND ILLINOIS MAN ADMIT TO  
ATTEMPTING TO SMUGGLE COCAINE INTO THE UNITED STATES**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that 34 year-old Ramona Garcia of Austell, Georgia, and 21 year-old Adalberto Martinez of Round Lake Park, Illinois, pled guilty this afternoon to cocaine smuggling charges.

Appearing before United States District Judge Alia Moses Ludlum in Del Rio, Texas, Garcia admitted that on February 16, 2004, she tried to enter the United States through the Del Rio Port of Entry while transporting more than fifteen kilograms of cocaine. During the search of the defendant's vehicle, inspectors discovered thirteen packages of cocaine concealed in a false compartment in the gas tank. At the time of her arrest, Garcia was traveling with her three sons, ages 9, 11 and 13.

Also appearing before United States District Judge Alia Moses Ludlum, Martinez admitted that on February 18, 2004, he attempted to enter the United States at the Eagle Pass Port of Entry with more than nine kilograms of cocaine. After a narcotics detecting canine alerted to the vehicle, sixteen packages of cocaine were discovered in the rocker panels of the vehicle.

As a result of their guilty pleas, Garcia and Martinez each face between ten years and life in federal prison. Sentencing for both Defendants is scheduled for August 9, 2004.

These cases were investigated by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Bureau of Customs & Border Protection (CBP). Assistant United States Attorney John A. Peralta is prosecuting the Garcia case on behalf of the government and Assistant United States Attorney Herbert Lindsey is prosecuting the Martinez case on behalf of the government.

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